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To: District and County Superintendents
Attention: Directors of Testing
Directors of Curriculum
Directors of Special Education
Bilingual Coordinator

From: Phillip Spears, Director
Standards and Assessment Division

Subject: **STAR 2000 District and Internet Reporting and
Internet Posting of California Reading List**

As we approach July 15, we wanted to update you on the release of the STAR 2000 test results.

Release of Data

CDE will release state STAR data on July 17 (as the 15th falls on a Saturday). The schedule for this year's Internet reporting is:

Sunday, July 16	Information will be available for the media with the state data embargoed until noon, Monday, July 17
Monday, July 17	Statewide results will be faxed to all districts an hour prior to the public release. Superintendent Eastin will hold a media availability at 12:00 p.m. and the Internet site will be opened at that time.

There is no state embargo for releasing your district's results. The Department strongly recommends that you verify that the student demographic data used for producing subgroup results is complete and accurate before it is released at the local level.

Release of Subscores

The release of 2000 STAR data will come in two stages. On July 17th, the results of *all* students will be reported for schools, districts, counties, and the state. On August 15th, CDE will post the results with all the subscores based on student demographic data—such as scores for limited English proficient and special education students. This change has been made to ensure that STAR results are based on complete and accurate information. This will give districts an extended opportunity to ensure that the demographic data is complete and reflects the actual student characteristics of each school.

Districts have continued to experience problems in providing complete demographic data on students. Many districts will need to work with Harcourt to provide missing data. It is essential that you respond as quickly as possible to Harcourt in providing that information. We also strongly encourage you to review the accuracy of the data as you receive school and district STAR reports. Inaccurate data caused major problems for districts in the computation of the 1999 API; by reviewing your district's data, you can prevent future problems of this nature.

All districts will continue to receive the Analyses of Variables reports and electronic student data files. If your district's data is incomplete, these reports also will be incomplete. Districts will receive corrected reports and data files once the needed data is provided to Harcourt. There will be no charge for these corrected reports.

California Reading List

This year, for the first time, CDE is implementing a statutory requirement to provide parents information about reading materials that may be appropriate (in terms of reading difficulty) for their children. STAR parent reports will include a California Reading List number that is based on each student's Stanford-9 reading comprehension score. Parents are directed to an Internet site where they will be able to enter their child's California Reading List number and obtain a list of recommended books.

During this first year, the Department is limiting the recommended books to those that were reviewed and approved for state-approved reading lists. California Reading List numbers range from 1-13, with list 1 containing the "easiest to read" titles. The reading list will be available at www.startest.com beginning July 1, 2000. Districts and counties will receive copies of the lists by September.

If there are any questions about this information, please contact the Standards and Assessment Division by e-mail at star@cde.ca.gov, telephone at (916) 657-3011, or fax at (916) 657-4964.